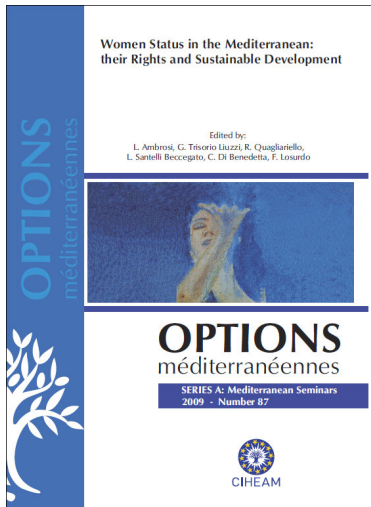


## Women Status in the Mediterranean: their Rights and Sustainable Development



"In the Mediterranean basin the gender dimension has been entering the programmes and the projects of international cooperation with even greater priority. Yet, a deeper analysis of the issue has pointed out the gap between the good political purposes and their fulfilment in concrete actions. In the Mediterranean Countries it is still necessary to work more strongly in order to abolish, as much as possible, the existing gender problems (differences between men and women) so to reach a real social integration. A well balanced, organic and true developmental policy, offering social, scientific and cultural programmes, must necessarily deal with the gender integration issues in the hope of achieving some more sound results.

Within this context CMU (Community of Mediterranean Universities), MAI-B (Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari) and the Community for Equal Opportunities of Bari University organized the International Meeting: "Women Status in the Mediterranean: their Rights and

Sustainable Development", hosted at MAI-Bari (Italy) from 16th to 17th June 2008.

This event, aimed to improve the institutional dialogue and to promote synergies in the field of the "women empowerment" in the different scientific and cultural sectors, with a particular reference to the rural areas.

Furthermore, the event was an opportunity for gathering and sharing information in order to encourage the creation or the extension of partnerships and suggest the start-up of new specific projects of cooperation.

The main topics included:

1. The women rights to work and training
2. Social and economic differences
3. Women and rural development"

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Edited by:

L. Ambrosi, G. Trisorio Liuzzi, R. Quagliariello, L. Santelli Beccegato, C. Di Benedetta, F. Losurdo  
Bari: CIHEAM (Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes). 2009  
102 pp.

Options Méditerranéennes, Series A (Mediterranean Seminars), No. 87

ISSN : 1016-121X

ISBN : 2-85352-423-X

Prix: 35 Euros

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Information: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari / CIHEAM

Via Ceglie 9. 70010 Valenzano, Bari. Italy

Tel. (39) (080) 4606 111 - Fax: (39) (080) 4606 206

E-mail: iamdir@iamb.it

Web: www.iamb.it

Publication available on line at:

[http://ressources.ciheam.org/util/search/detail\\_numero.php?mot=388&langue=fr](http://ressources.ciheam.org/util/search/detail_numero.php?mot=388&langue=fr)

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